

**TOWN OF HOLDERNESS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING-MINUTES
MARCH 14 & 15, 2006**

At the annual Town Meeting of the Town of Holderness held on March 14 and 15, 2006 the following business was transacted.

At 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at the Holderness Town Hall, Moderator Ross Deachman convened the meeting and began reading the warrant. After reading Article 1, the Moderator declared the polls opened. At 7:00 p.m. the polls closed and the ballots counted. Results were announced and the Moderator declared the winners.

At 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at Holderness Central School the Meeting resumed. Moderator Ross Deachman opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Malcolm "Tink" Taylor and had a moment of silence for those residents that passed away during the year 2005. Moderator Ross Deachman asked for a motion that we dispense with the reading of the remainder of the Warrant and take the articles up one at a time as they appear in the Warrant. Moved by Malcolm "Tink" Taylor and seconded by Earl Hansen. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Article 1: To choose all Town Officers by official ballot:

Selectmen for 3 Years:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Sidney Lovett | 213 |
| 13 Write-Ins | |

Town Treasurer for 1 Year:

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Todd Elgin | 234 |
|------------|-----|

Trustee for Trust Fund for 3 Years:

25 Write-Ins

Library Trustee for 2 Years:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Sandra L. Ray | 243 |
|---------------|-----|

Library Trustee for 3 Years: (Vote for Two)

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Frances "Kay" Hanson | 227 |
| Laurence J. Webster | 217 |

Supervisor of Checklist for 2 Years:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Frances K. Hanson | 241 |
|-------------------|-----|

Supervisor of Checklist for 6 Years:

Frances “Fran” L.H. Taylor 240

Fire Ward for 3 Years:

David F. Dupuis 242

HOLDERNESS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Election Results

School Board Member for 3 Years:

Robert Heiner 210

Martha Macomber 232

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of all Town Officers and Committees

Moved by Samuel Laverack and seconded by Suzanne Peoples. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Article 3: Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property taxes for all those who qualify under RSA 72:39-a&b as follows:

| Age Range | Current Exemption | Modified Exemption |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 65-74 | 10,000 | 25,000 |
| 75-79 | 15,000 | 30,000 |
| 80 + | 20,000 | 50,000 |

If approved, these amounts would take effect on April 1, 2006.

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Peg Winton. No discussion followed. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to begin the planning, design and construction of a new Honor Roll memorial. Said amount to be taken from the Honor Roll Capital Reserve Account. No amount to be raised by taxes. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or by December 31, 2007 whichever is sooner. **Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee.**

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Kathy Huss. The Moderator recognized Harry Decker, Chairman of the Honor Roll Committee who recognized the other Committee Members as Edward Ford, Patricia Ford, Sandy Ray, Barbara Currier, Lyle "Tom" Thompson, Jr. and Russell Morin. Mr. Decker explained that the condition of the existing Veterans Memorial located at the Holderness Town Library is beyond repair and is incomplete of veteran's names and in need of further research. Board of Selectmen requested of the Honor Roll Committee a design and location for the new memorial. The Grange has assisted the committee with the assistance of a professional researcher and has found 400 names from the Revolutionary War to the present that should be listed on the Memorial. Mr. Decker stated that once the location and design of the Memorial is finalized and approved by the Board of Selectmen funds would be needed for the start up costs for the stonework. The Grange will contribute \$ 5,000. towards the memorial. The Honor Roll Capital Reserve has around \$ 10,900.00 with an additional request of \$ 10,000.00 to be appropriated this year. Mr. Decker explained the Committee hopes to fund the project by private donations. A resident asked what locations were being considered. Mr. Decker responded that of the 4 properties owned by the Town the two sites being considered are the Library and the Town Hall. Gary Cripps questioned if the statement in the article not to raise tax money for this project is correct. Mr. Decker responded that if the site and design is approved prior to the next annual Town Meeting the \$ 15,000. in Article 4, if passed, would be available to start up the project such as a down payment on the granite necessary for the memorial. Mr. Decker stated if the \$ 10,000. requested in Article 5 for the Honor Roll Capital Reserve Fund does not pass then Article 4 would be limited to the money currently in the Honor Roll Capital Reserve Fund. Moderator Deachman explained money is being raised for the project from taxes in funding the capital reserve fund in Article 5 but not in this article. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the purchase of a new fire boat and to fund said appropriation by authorizing the Selectmen to withdraw Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) from the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund. Balance of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be raised by taxes.

Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee.

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Kathy Huss. No discussion followed. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$264,000) to be placed into the following Capital Reserve Funds:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Fire/Rescue Vehicles | \$30,000. |
| Road Reconstruction | 150,000. |
| White Oak Pond Dam | 1,000. |
| Library | 10,000. |
| Municipal Buildings | 2,000. |
| Revaluation | 19,000 |
| Fire Equipment | 2,000. |
| Honor Roll | 10,000. |
| Public Works Vehicles | 35,000. |
| Police Cruiser | <u>5,000.</u> |
| | \$264,000. |

Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Kathy Huss. No discussion followed. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

The Moderator announced the results of the town election, Holderness Central School and the Pemi-Baker School District, which took place on Tuesday, March 14, 2006.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$169,000) for the following capital projects and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the Selectmen to withdraw the sums indicated from the following designated Capital Reserve Funds for these purposes:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Road Reconstruction | \$150,000. |
| Revaluation | <u>19,000</u> |
| | \$169,000. |

Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee

Moved by Peg Winton and seconded by Earl Hansen. The Moderator asked the Board of Selectmen which roads were being considered for reconstruction. Peter Francesco, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, replied the roads selected were East Holderness Rd., Beede Rd., Hardhack Rd., Seven Pines Rd. and Bob House Rd. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to transfer Four Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$4,300) from the Land Use Change Tax Fund to the Conservation Reserve Fund.

Moved by Suzanne Peoples and seconded by Samuel Laverack. Larry Spencer, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, explained the Town of Holderness has 225 parcels enrolled in the Current Use Program, with a total acreage of 11,216.61, with a valuation of \$ 1,160,816. Current use properties are taxed at a reduced assessment. Mr. Spencer explained when these property owners take land out of current use they must pay a penalty tax. Mr. Spencer stated Article 8 is to take the current use land change tax funds from the 7.91 acres withdrawn from current use in 2005 which was \$ 4,300.00 and transfer that amount of money into Conservation Reserve Fund. Mr. Spencer explained the purpose of the Conservation Fund is to use the money received from the current use change tax funds to purchase properties or easements and/or to assist land owners in developing easements. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Five Dollars (\$1,933,785.) which represents the operating budget for the Town. Said sum does not include special or individual articles elsewhere within this warrant.

Recommended by Selectmen and Budget Committee

Moved by Earl Hansen and seconded by Malcolm "Tink" Taylor. A resident asked how the 2006 budget compared to last year. Selectman Peter Webster replied that it was up 4.4% from last year. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to support the Selectmen accepting a donation of land and buildings thereon from Holderness 2000 located behind Curry Place off US Route 3 containing approximately 1.8 acres know as Map 102 Lot 006. The property to be for public use. Said acceptance to be in accordance with RSA 41:14-a and the authorization given to the Selectmen in Article 7 of the 2004 annual town meeting.

Moved by Kathy Huss and seconded by Angela Francesco. Alden Van Sickle asked if the Board of Selectmen support Article 10. Selectmen Peter Francesco replied that the Board of Selectmen support this article as well as the Planning Board and Conservation Committee. Selectperson Suzanne Peoples asked about a note on the map regarding a proposed Visitors Center and if this is part of the plan being voted on. Selectmen Samuel Laverack replied that it is for the acceptance of the land and the note for the proposed Visitor Center is not on the parcel being accepted by the Town. Selectmen Peter Francesco stated prior to the deeding of this property to the Town of Holderness

there will be a boundary line adjustment between Curry Place and Holderness 2000 which will move the property line behind the Holderness Post Office building for possible future expansion on that building. Frances “Kay” Hanson asked if there are any building restrictions on this property. Selectmen Francesco replied that the Board of Selectmen have not had any discussion on the future uses of this property and are unaware of any restrictions on this property at this time. Peg Winton asked who would maintain this property. Selectmen Francesco replied said there has been no discussion on the maintenance at this time. Malcolm “Tink” Taylor asked if this might be a potential Honor Roll Memorial Site. Harry Decker replied that the committee would consider this location. A voice vote was taken and the Article **PASSED**.

Article 11: To transact any other business that can legally come before the meeting.

The Moderator recognized Peter Francesco.

Mr. Francesco welcomed Sidney Lovett to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Francesco recognized and thanked Samuel Laverack for his 26 years service to the Town of Holderness. Mr. Laverack was on the Budget Committee, Trustee of Trust Funds, Municipal Facilities Committee, Holderness Central School Board and the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Francesco presented Mr. Laverack with a granite bird bath with a sundial.

The Moderator expressed his appreciation to Mr. Laverack for his years of service to the community and all those who willingly serve the Town of Holderness.

Mr. Laverack thanked all those who he worked with through the years and for the support of the community.

Malcolm “Tink” Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Earl Hansen. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen King
Holderness Town Clerk